



OPINIONS AND ISSUES SERIES: UNIT PROGRAM #5 - LAW AND ORDER

1. How can people protect themselves from or change unjust laws enacted and enforced by constituted authority?
2. Should people be forced to uphold laws which they were excluded from participating in making or under which they are unjustly treated?
3. What is to ensure that those elected to legislative posts enact just laws?
4. If you believe there is a law higher than man-made law, what is the moral and religious duty of individuals in religious groups when these laws are in conflict?
5. How can the constitutionality of laws be tested without breaking them?
6. Can there be respect for laws when law enforcement agencies themselves act above the law, as in: price-fixing, privileged information, conflict of interest, racial bias, graft, excessive use of force etc.?
7. How can law enforcement officers be restrained from excessive use of force?
8. Can a demand for "law and order" be taken seriously when not accompanied by an equal demand for justice for all?
9. What is the role of public figures and mass media in fostering the concept that demonstrations exercising freedom of speech and assembly are "crime in the streets"?
10. Is the routine arrest of demonstrators in the name of "disturbing the peace", "inciting to riot", "suspicion" and "resisting arrest" consistent with basic legal principles?
11. How can citizens act to end the punitive use of law and promote its rehabilitative use?
12. What remedies are there when established channels for obtaining justice or the redress of long-standing injustices are closed?

